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JS radicals blamed for death of CIA chief in Greece

om Fred Emery
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A handful of Americans, mostly linked with other anti-establishment radicals, are making the focus of official outrage here over the murder of Mr. Charles Welch, chief of American intelligence operations in Greece.

Mr. Welch had been named twice, once last January, and again in midsummer, as a Central Intelligence Agency official—but in Peru, not Greece—in a magazine called *Counterspy*, edited by a group calling itself the Fifth Estate for Security Education. His name was given no prominence among the 200-odd

others listed as CIA operatives in station chiefs in more than 100 capitals.

President Ford has now expressed his belief that publication of Mr. Welch's name—did not mention *Counterspy*—contributed to the murder. And the President has given special authorization for Mr. Welch's body to be buried in Arlington National cemetery, now reserved for those who have fallen in combat or served with special military distinction.

Tomorrow a newspaper attack will be launched on *Counterspy* in a column distributed throughout the country by Colonel Robert Heintz, a retired Marine officer who works principally

for the *Detroit News*. A feature is also planned in the *Washington Post* outlining how an attempt is being made to generate a pro-CIA backlash.

One of the leaders of the outrage against the *Counterspy* men is Mr. David Phillips, a retired CIA man who last spring formed the Association of Retired Intelligence Officers to try to defend the agency. Within two hours of the murder news reaching here, he was on the phone expostulating to the *Washington Post*.

Unattributably, he is said to have described *Counterspy's* publication of the names as a "hit list—or assassination list." "It is the first time one

American fingered another to be rubbed out," he is reported to have claimed.

A *Counterspy* spokesman, Mr. Tim Butz, immediately denied the allegation, and blamed the CIA for the murder because it had sent Mr. Welch on his mission.

The magazine made headlines last January when, in the wake of the exposé book by Mr. Philip Agee (the CIA renegade now resident in Britain) it came out with the lists of names. Some critics see it as Mr. Agee's vehicle in this country. He has never returned, not because he fears charges of treason or anything like that. He does, however, risk prosecution for breaking his contract with CIA.

The Fifth Estate preceded Mr. Agee, though he was a natural soulmate. Operating out of scruffy offices in central Washington, it was formed a couple of years ago by men with intelligence backgrounds—and some perennial as well as fashionable radicals—who, in the post-Vietnam and Watergate furor were determined to expose the American intelligence structure professedly in the hope of reforming it.

A cocktail party given by Mr. Norman Mailer in his flat was one way it raised its first funds. Oddly, none of the four "coordinators" listed on the group's letterhead is to be found in the telephone book.

The prime coordinators are: Mr. Tim Butz, formerly in Air Force intelligence and Fifth Estate's spokesman; and Mr. Winslow Peck, sometime codebreaker in the super secret National Security Agency, which monitors electronic communications all over the world.

Mr. Peck wrote one sensational article in *Ramparts* magazine recounting monitored telephone conversations with a Soviet cosmonaut as his capsule plunged him to his death. According to Colonel Heintz, Peck is an alias for Perry D. Elwak, his true name.

Also listed are a Mr. Doug Porter, a California reporter, and Ms. Margaret van Houten, a feminist.

An advisory board of directors is also listed. It contains names familiar to supporters of radical causes since the opposition to the Vietnam war. The list published in the last issue of *Counterspy* runs: Philip Agee, Sylvia Crane, David Delinger, Frank Donner, R. Katz, Mark Lane (author of *Rush to Judgment*), Victor Marchetti (co-author of another book exposing the CIA), Fred Branfman, Barton Osborn (formerly CIA), W. Fletcher Prouty (a former Air Force intelligence man with the CIA), Marcus Raskin, Anthony Russo (co-defendant in the Pentagon papers case), Kirkpatrick Sale, and Stanley Schiembaum.

Dr. Sale is an author who is writing a history of the Students for a Democratic Society, a violent offshoot of the anti-Vietnam war movement.

Mr. Agee was quoted in a commentary accompanying the first flood of names last January as saying: "The most effective and important systematic efforts to combat the CIA that can be undertaken right now are, I think, the identification, exposure and neutralization of its people working abroad." That last word is taking on special meaning in the denunciations.

One point should be appreciated. *Counterspy* may have named lots of names, but it is hardly the first. Americans do not closely guard the identities of such men. It is usually common knowledge to those working in government and in foreign journalism.

But, that said, the editor who puts a name on the front page of his newspaper in an explosive situation has to answer for attracting the attention of a far wider audience—and presumably that could include those murderously inclined.

Washington, Dec 28.—Senator Frank Church, chairman of the Senate committee investigating the CIA, last night denied that the committee was in any way to blame for the murder.

Mr. Mike Ackerman, a former CIA officer who left the agency last May, had complained that inquiries by the committee should have been conducted without so many public disclosures of sensitive information.

Mr. Ackerman said that what happened to Mr. Welch was "a recurrent nightmare for me for years. Every CIA officer, everywhere in the world, feels this very, very intensely."

"It's unforgivable to send officers overseas without adequate protection," Mr. Ackerman said.

In an interview Senator Church retorted: "The gentleman is misinformed, since the committee has made no disclosures of information received from any source that could possibly jeopardize the life of any CIA agent." In fact, Mr. Church added, he had not known before the murder that Mr. Welch was a CIA agent.